

Serial No. 10/627,984

Attorney Docket No. 26A-008

REMARKS

Claims 10, 12, 26-30, and 35-42 are pending. Claims 1-9, 11, 13-25, 31-34 have been canceled. Claims 28-30 have been withdrawn. The applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 34-40 were objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim but were said to be allowable if written in independent form. Claim 10 has been written to include the limitations of claims 11 and 34. Thus, claim 10 is claim 34 in independent form and should be in condition for allowance. Also, claim 36 has been written in independent form. Thus, claim 36 includes the limitations of the version of claim 10 presented in the amendment of 29 April 2006.

In addition, independent claims 26 and 27 have been amended to include the subject matter of claim 34. Since claim 34 was said to contain allowable subject matter, claims 26 and 27 are considered to be in condition for allowance.

Claim 27 has been amended to correct the error noted in paragraph 2 of the office action.

The rejections are specifically addressed as follows.

Claims 10, 26, 27, 41, and 42 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Saslekov (6,113,132). The applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn for the following reasons.

As mentioned above, claim 10 is the same as claim 34 in independent form and should be in condition for allowance. Also, as mentioned above, claims 26 and 27 have been amended to include the subject matter of claim 34. Since claim 34 was said to contain allowable subject matter, claims 26 and 27 are considered to be in condition for allowance. Claims 41 and 42

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depend on claims 26 and 27, respectively, and are thus considered to be in condition for allowance based on their dependency.

Claims 11 and 12 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Saslecov in view of Bowers et al. Claim 11 has been canceled and thus will not be discussed. As for claim 12, the applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn because claim 12 depends on claim 10, which is considered to be in condition for allowance for reasons given above.


Claim 10 was rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bowers et al. in view of Dominissini (6,688,641). The applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn for the reasons given above.

Claims 28-30 are dependent on claim 27, which is considered to be in condition for allowance. If claim 27 is allowed, claims 28-30 should be rejoined under 37 CFR 1.141.

In view of the foregoing, the applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance. A timely notice to that effect is respectfully requested. If questions relating to patentability remain, the examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone.

If there are any problems with the payment of fees, please charge any underpayments and credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 50-1147.

Respectfully submitted,


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